

In the Claims

1. An Internet-based method, comprising:

a user entering into a client computer on the Internet one or more first criteria for a search of an IP database kept on a server computer system on the Internet and containing records of intellectual property assets owned by a plurality of different owners;

searching the IP database for records matching the one or more criteria;

displaying to the user on the client computer a list of records found in the search;

allowing the user to optionally reject, using the client computer, selected records in the list;

adding non-rejected records to a user portfolio database;

the user adding additional records to the user portfolio database one at a time by identifying intellectual property assets one at a time using the client computer;

the user specifying, using the client computer, one or more additional search criteria for an IP database, the search criteria being the same as or different from the first criteria;

the server computer system using the additional search criteria to automatically search the IP database on a recurring basis on at least some of the days following the original search;

displaying to the user, on the client computer, a list of records found in the additional searches;

allowing the user to optionally reject selected records in the list using the client computer; and

adding non-rejected records to the user portfolio database.

2. A method according to claim 1 including automatically performing a watch service for at least one of the IP assets in the user portfolio.
3. A method according to claim 1 including automatically performing a watch service on the server computer system for a plurality of different IP assets in the user portfolio and presenting watch results to a user with the client computer.
4. A method according to claim 1 further including keeping docketing information on the server computer system and presenting docketing information on the client computer for one or more of the IP assets in the user portfolio database.
5. A method according to claim 4 further wherein the docketing information is renewal or maintenance or annuity docketing information.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the docketing information includes fees owed for an IP asset and the dates such fees are owed.
7. A method according to claim 4 further wherein the docketing information concerns the renewal or maintenance of a trademark.
8. A method according to claim 4 further including displaying to a user docketing status information for one or more IP assets.
9. A method according to claim 1 further including collecting from a user on a client computer information required to perform a legal service with respect to an IP asset in a user portfolio database.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein the required information is renewal or maintenance information for a trademark.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the required information pertains to maintenance of a patent.

12. A method according to claim 1 further including performing data analysis or processing regarding one or more IP assets in the user portfolio database.

13. A method according to claim 1 further including a user ordering electronic or paper copies of documents pertaining to one or more of the IP assets in the user portfolio database.

14. A method according to claim 1 further including a user requesting on the client computer that electronic copies of documents pertaining to one or more IP assets in the user portfolio be made available for access by the user.

15. A method according to claim 1 further including displaying to the user on the client computer a user activated indicia associated with one or more IP assets in the user portfolio database that allows the user to view an electronic image of a document associated with an IP asset in the user portfolio database.

16. A method according to claim 14 wherein the electronic copies are owned by the user and can be downloaded by the user.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the electronic copy is a PDF format copy.

18. A method according to claim 1 wherein the server computer system includes one or more computing or storage devices.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein the computing devices and storage devices are located in different locations.

20. A method according to claim 1 wherein the client computer is a personal computer or a workstation computer or an Internet appliance.

21. A method according to claim 1 wherein the search criteria are owners or assignees of the IP assets.

22. An Internet-based on-line system comprising:

a client computer on the Internet enabled to allow a user to enter one or more first criteria for a search of an IP database kept on a server computer system on the Internet and containing records of intellectual property assets owned by a plurality of different owners;

the server computer enabled to search the IP database for records matching the one or more criteria;

the client computer enabled to display to the user on the client computer a list of records found in the search;

the client computer enabled to allow the user to optionally reject selected records in the list;

the server computer system enabled to add non-rejected records to a user portfolio database;

the client computer enabled to allow a user to request additional records be

added to the user portfolio database one at a time by identifying intellectual property assets one at a time using the client computer;

the client computer enabled to allow a user to specify one or more additional search criteria for an IP database, the search criteria being the same as or different from the first criteria;

the server computer system enabled to use the additional search criteria to automatically search the IP database on a recurring basis on at least some of the days following the original search;

the client computer enabled to display to the user a supplementary list of records found in the additional searches;

the client computer enabled to allow the user to optionally reject selected records in the supplementary list using the client computer;

the server computer system enabled to add non-rejected records to the user portfolio database.

23. A system according to claim 22 including the server computer system enabled to automatically perform a watch service for at least one of the IP assets in the user portfolio.

24. A system according to claim 22 including the server computer system enabled to automatically perform a watch service for a plurality of different IP assets in the user portfolio and presenting watch results to a user with the client computer.

25. A system according to claim 22 further including the server computer system enabled to retain docketing information and to present docketing information on the client computer for one or more of the IP assets in the user portfolio database.

26. A system according to claim 25 further wherein the docketing information is renewal or maintenance or annuity docketing information.

27. A system according to claim 25 wherein the docketing information includes fees owed for an IP asset and the dates such fees are owed.

28. A system according to claim 25 further wherein the docketing information concerns the renewal or maintenance of a trademark.

29. A system according to claim 25 further including the server computer system enabled to display on a client computer docketing status information for one or more IP assets.

30. A system according to claim 22 further including the client computer enabled to collect from a user computer information required to perform a legal service with respect to an IP asset in a user portfolio database.

31. A system according to claim 30 wherein the required information is renewal or maintenance information for a trademark.

32. A system according to claim 31 wherein the required information pertains to maintenance of a patent.

33. A system according to claim 22 further including the server computer system enabled to perform data analysis or processing regarding one or more IP assets in the user portfolio database.

35. A system according to claim 22 further including the client computer enabled to allow a user to request that electronic copies of documents pertaining to one or more IP assets in the user portfolio be made available for access by the user.

36. A system according to claim 22 further including the server computer system enabled to cause the client computer to display to the user a user activated indicia associated with one or more IP assets in the user portfolio database that allows the user to view an electronic image of a document associated with an IP asset in the user portfolio database.

37. A system according to claim 36 wherein the electronic copies are owned by the user and can be downloaded by the user.

38. A system according to claim 37 wherein the electronic copy is a PDF format copy.

39. A system according to claim 22 wherein the server computer system includes one or more computing or storage devices.

40. A system according to claim 39 wherein the computing devices and storage devices are located in different locations.

41. A system according to claim 22 wherein the client computer is a personal computer or a workstation computer or an Internet appliance.
42. A method according to claim 1 wherein the a hypertext markup language is used to display information on a client computer.
43. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the client computer is enabled to display information to a user in response to a hypertext markup language.
44. A method according to claim 1 wherein the server computer system sends programming information to the client computer using JAVA computer language instructions or commands.
45. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the server computer system is enabled to send programming information to the client computer using JAVA computer language instructions or commands.
46. A computer program embodied in a machine readable media comprising computer instructions that perform any one of the methods set forth in claims 1-21.